Numb. 147.

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Thurſday, April 29. to Saturday, May 1. 1714.

The ſending great Quantities of Woollen-Manufactures to Marſeilles *has been proved.*
The Enemy does not oppoſe it.
What fooliſh Shifts they make to get off of it.
They pretend they are ſent from thence to other Countries.
Either They muſt ſend them, or We ſend them.
If we ſend them to other Ports, what need have we to carry them firſt to Marſeilles?
If the French, *then what is come of the Notion of having Manufactures of their own, and of their Rivalling us in foreign Parts?*
If the French *carry our Woollen Goods to other Countries, it muſt be for one of theſe Two Reaſons.*
Either they have none of their own to ſpare,
Or thoſe they have are not ſo fit for the Market, and will not ſell.
They proved both theſe laſt War, when they were obliged to buy Forty or Sixty Thouſand Pounds worth of our Manufactures in Holland *to carry on their* South-Sea *Trade.*

IT having appear'd by unconteſtable Evidence, that a very great Quantity of Engliſh Woollen-Manufactures are daily Exported to the South Parts of France, and are concealed by being entred under the general Title of *the Streights*. It remains to enquire what ſimple Shuffles the Enemies make uſe of to ſhift off the Force of this Truth.

They tell us, that Marſeilles is a free Port, and is to be look'd upon only as a Ware-houſe or Store-houſe, where Goods are brought from all Parts of the World to be carry'd from thence to other Markets, and therefore this is not to be eſteem'd as an Exportation to France at all.

To give this all the Weight it will bear, and that then the Levity of it may more fully appear, the *MERCATOR* ſhall grant Marſeilles to be a free Port in as large a Senſe as they pleaſe, only reſerving two Things which they can never deny. 1. That Marſeilles is in France. 2. That if the Goods are Exported again from thence, it is not on the Engliſh Merchants Accounts, but on the Accounts of the Merchants of Marſeilles and their Correſpondents in ſuch Places to which they do again Export them.

This they cannot diſpute, for it would be the abſurdeſt Thing in Nature to talk of our Engliſh Merchants ſending their Manufactures to Marſeilles to be Exported from thence to other Ports in the Mediterranean, becauſe to all thoſe Ports, without exception of one, the Engliſh ſend directly, and no Merchant would ſend his Goods out of the way to Marſeilles, which is at the Bottom of the Bay or Gulph of Lyons to be ſent by a ſecond Shipping to another Port, whether he could have ſent them at once directly from England, that would be to have other Merchants of our own Country underſel them at the ſame Markets.

If therefore the Merchants of Marſeilles ſend our Woollen-Manufactures from thence, it muſt be to ſome Place whether we cannot ſend them directly, and of this the *MERCATOR* ſays it will be very hard to tell us where it is, unleſs thro' France by Inland Carriage, or into France it ſelf, and the firſt is the ſame thing to us as the laſt; for if it be the laſt, the Point is gain'd, and if it be the firſt, the Point is doubly gain'd, for here will occur a Queſtion, which muſt put our Oppoſers to the bluſh intollerably, if they are able to bluſh at all, viz. How comes the French Merchants to re-Export our Goods from Marſeilles, either thro' France, or into other Parts of France, if it be true that the French want not our Manufactures, or that they are able to ſupply foreign Markets with the ſame Goods and Cheaper? The ſame holds good of their Exporting to other Ports by Sea from Marſeilles.

Was ever any thing ſo abſurd and ſo contradicting, we know right well who are requir'd to have good Memories. Theſe Men ſure had forgot that they had Printed it frequently, that the French were our Rivals in the Markets of Italy for Perpets and Serges, that they could carry their Goods to Market cheaper than we could, and that we ſhould have no Trade there, that the French were able to ſupply any Quantity of Goods to thoſe Markets, and that they wanted nor any of our Goods in their own Country, but on the contrary were able to ſupply us with Goods.

Now on a ſudden, when it appears, that great Quantities of our Woollen-Manufactures are ſent to one of the greateſt Sea-Ports they have; to ſhuffle it off they are fain

fain to bring in their own Merchants carrying our Goods to other Markets to ſell.

If they are our Rivals in the Manufacture, if they make our Goods as good as we can make them, ſell them cheaper, and make a ſufficient Quantity, then it would be ridiculous to ſuppoſe they ſhould leave their own at home, and carry ours abroad. But ſuch Contradictions are common with theſe People.

What Diſtreſs are theſe People brought to in their way of Arguing, that after having ſaid they carry their own Goods abroad, and Rival us in all the Markets of the World, underſel us, and throw us out of the Trade? They ſhould now forget themſelves ſo far as to make the French carry our Goods to other Markets to ſell.

Why! this is the moſt monſtrous thing that ever was heard of, that to Day the French want none of our Goods at home, but are able to match and overmatch us in all the Markets in Europe, and will worm us out of the Trade, and to-morrow they are brought in Importing great Quantities of our Manufactures to Marſeilles a free Port in France, that they may carry them from thence to ſell for us in other parts of the World!

What! the French ſell our Goods that have ſo many of their own, and ſo good! The French carry our Goods to other Markets to ſell! Where then are their own? Their good and cheap Goods, their Quantities which would ſupply the World! Ridiculous People! With what Face can any Writers put ſuch things on the World!

But they have no other way; the *MERCATOR* had proved the Goods ſhipped at London had landed them for them at Marſeilles, and theſe People can by no means bear to have them carryed farther into France, and ſo they invented this far-fetch'd Forgery, (viz.) *That* Marſeilles *being a free Port, the Goods were carryed from thence to other foreign Nations*, forgetting, *for ſuch Men ought to have good Memories*, that they had talked but juſt before of the vaſt Quantities of their own Manufactures which the French carryed to other Ports, where they Outſold us, and bid fair to carry away all our Trade from us: Is it then probable, if the French have ſuch Quantities of their own Goods to ſell, they would carry Engliſh Goods to Market?

O fooliſh and abſurd Engliſhmen! to talk thus Ridiculouſly! Why ſhould Britiſh Merchants be aſham'd to own the Truth, as it is plainly and apparently known, to the Honour of their own Country, and of their own Manufacture, (viz.) That in ſpite of the high Duties in France upon our Goods, and of all other Diſcouragements, ſuch is the want of our Manufactures in France, ſuch the ſorry and mean Quality of their own Goods, and want of Quantity alſo, that they do and muſt have ours, at whatſoever Rate they give for them?

Nay, and this is not all, but ſo unable are their Merchants to carry on their own foreign Trade without our Manufactures, ſo unable to ſupply other parts with Woollen Manufactures of their own Working, or with Merchandizes of their own Growth and Produce, that at Marſeilles, by the confeſſion of their own Friends here, the Britiſh Woollen Manufactures which are carried from hence, are, it ſeems, carryed for them to Export to other Ports, and to ſell there, for which there can be but one of theſe two Reaſons aſſigned: Either, 1. That their own will not ſell there; or, 2. That they have not enough to ſupply the Demand, and ſo they cannot carry on their Trade without our Goods.

Now tho' this is a certain Fiction, a meer Chimera born from the Brain of an Author who regards Truth no more than good Manners, and dictated by thoſe that hire him to Lie for them; yet were it true, it ſo evidently contradicts all that they had ſaid before upon the Subject of the French having Woollen Manufactures of their own to ſell abroad, and to ſupply foreign Markets with, that if ever they ſpeak a word more of it, they ought to be bid read over their own Works, and go to themſelves for a Confutation: The French make Manufactures! What, and yet ſend for ours into France to Export again! Ridiculous! Pray why not Export their own? Alas! Now the Truth is come out all at once; the Reaſon is, becauſe they have them not to Export.

This confirms, among other things, what the *MERCATOR* formerly mentioned, (viz.) That in the late War, when the French had the Advantage of the Spaniſh Commerce to the South-Seas, they were ſo unable to ſupply the Markets in the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies with Woollen Manufactures of their own, or to get the like of any other Nations Product, and the Trade ſo entirely depended on our Engliſh Woollen Goods, that they were obliged to Addreſs the King of France for leave to buy up the Value of Twenty Thouſand Pounds Sterling each Year, for Two or three Years together, of Engliſh Woollen Manufactures in Holland, which was granted, and which was a wonderful Teſtimony you'll ſay of the Goodneſs and Quantity of the Woollen Manufactures in France.

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